

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 19-36 and substitute pending claim 4 for amended claim 4 as follows:

4. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the DNA molecule that increases tolerance to salt stress and drought stress is selected from the group consisting of a Δ^1 -pyrroline-5-carboxylate synthetase gene, *P5CS*-129A, *Hva1*, COR47, a mannitol 1-P-dehydrogenase gene, a gene for the biosynthesis of polyamines, and a gene for the biosynthesis of glycine betaine, trehalose, D-ononitol or fructans.

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